

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NEW DE 08733 280551Z

10

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SS-15 NSC-10

RSR-01 /101 W

----- 079389

R 271415Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5831

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

CINCPAC

S E C R E T NEW DELHI 8733

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, US, XO, IN

SUBJ: JOURNALIST VISITS TO DIEGO GARCIA

REF: (A) STATE 146706, (B) STATE 143642, (C) NEW DELHI 9641 (1972)

1. EMBASSY APPRECIATES BEING GIVEN CHANCE TO COMMENT ON PLANS FOR AMERICAN JOURNALISTS TO VISIT DIEGO GARCIA.

2. IN AUGUST 1972 WE REPORTED (REF C) THAT UK HIGH COMMISSION HERE HAS SUGGESTED DESIRABILITY OF INVITING TWO SENIOR INDIAN NAVAL OFFICERS

TO VISIT DIEGO GARCIA, AND RECEIVED NEGATIVE RESPONSE FROM DEPARTMENT (STATE 160448), WITH WHICH WE AGREED. WE ARE STILL NOT CONVINCED JOURNALIST VISIT IS GOOD IDEA SINCE IT STIMULATES REPORTING ON SUBJECT BETTER LEFT QUIET. THEREFORE WE RECOMMEND AGAINST SUCH A VISIT. IF, NEVERTHELESS, THREE US JOURNALISTS ARE TO VISIT THE COMMUNICATIONS FACILITY, WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE WORTHWHILE CONSIDERING AN INVITATION TO AN INDIAN JOURNALIST TO JOIN THE GROUP. INDIAN PAPERS HAVE GIVEN FULL PUBLICITY TOO OPENING OF THE FACILITY, OFTEN WITH NEGATIVE TWISTS SUCH AS CALLING IT A "BASE". A VISIT BY RESPONSIBLE INDIAN JOURNALIST MIGHT HELP TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND AVOID POSSIBLE

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 NEW DE 08733 280551Z

APPPEARANCE OF PRESS VISIT AS "CANNED" US AFFAIR. IT WOULD

REDUCE INDIAN SUSPICION OF US REFUSAL TO ALLOW FUTURE SEPARATE INDIAN JOURNALIST VISIT IF THIS WAS REQUESTED (AND WE ASSUME CINCPAC AND WASHINGTON DO NOT WANT SERIES OF JOURNALIST TRIPS). GIRILAL JAIN OF TIMES OF INDIA (RESIDENT EDITOR), KULDIP NAYAR OF STATESMAN (RESIDENT EDITOR), WOR DILIP MUKERRJI OF TIMES OF INDIA (CHIEF OF BBUREAU) WOULD BE OUR PREFERRED CANDIDATES. ALL ARE RESPONSIBLE, OBJECTIVE JOURNALISTS BASICALLY WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD US, AND WITH EXCELLENT LOCAL REPUTATIONS. IF DEPARTMENT AND CINCPAC APPROVE, WE WILL APPROACH JOURNALISTS TO SEE WHICH INTERESTED.

3. EMBASSY WILL FIND THE UNCLASSIFIED SECTION OF REF (B) HELPFUL IN REPLYING TO INQUIRIES HERE.

4. FYI WILLIAM DRUMMOND, LOS ANGELES TIMES CORRESPONDENT HERE, HAS LONG-STANDING REQUEST TO EMBASSY TO BE INCLUDED IN ANY PRESS VISIT TO DIEGO GARCIA. I WOULD LIKE HIM INCLUDED IF ON NO OTHER GROUNDS THAT FIRST COME FIRST SERVED. IN ANY EVENT, DRUMMOND IS CURRENTLY BACK IN US ON LEAVE. END FYI.

MOYNIHAN

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NEWDE08733
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS MOYNIHAN
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973077/aaaaafen.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 (A) STATE 146706, (B) STATE 14364, 2, (C) NEW DELHI 9641 (1972)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 DEC 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19-Dec-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <10-Jan-2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JOURNALIST VISITS TO DIEGO GARCIA
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, UK, US, XO, IN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005